In response to Department Of Commerce [Docket Number: 100624279-0279-01], Request for Public Comment To Inform Development of National Export Initiative Plan, my comments in response to the following questions are as follows:

(1) Identification of Federal government programs or regulations that impede the ability of U.S. companies to export

(5) More generally, how the Federal government could better help U.S. businesses export

Macroeconomic Policy

It can not be overstated as to the importance of macroeconomic policy to the success of the U.S. export sector. U.S. exporters like all U.S. businesses are just that, they are businesses. Governmental macroeconomic policies that are adverse to the private sector and that favor the federal government as opposed to the private sector as the primary engine of economic growth are extremely damaging to the health of U.S. private enterprise. The U.S. economy is an economy based upon capitalism, which is responsible for the economic wealth that has been generated within the United States. Governmental macroeconomic policies in general that discourage profits and entrepreneurial risk taking result in a weakening of U.S. private enterprise and capitalism. This weakening will also include the U.S. export sector which is highly dependent on risk taking and profit expectations.

Tax Policy

1. Lower U.S. corporate tax rates. U.S. corporate tax rates are among the highest in the world and reducing rates would make U.S. exporters more competitive.
2. Maintain individual tax rates at their present levels. Many U.S. exporters are organized as Subchapter S corporations and therefore are taxed at individual tax rates. Allowing present tax rates to rise will only harm the competitiveness of Subchapter S corporation U.S. exporters and will discourage investment and employment.
3. Lower the capital gains tax rate. Having a high capital gain tax rates has been proven empirically to be an economic drag in investment which is critical to the success of U.S. exports and exporters. Lowering the capital gains tax rate would increase investment capital available to U.S. exporters.

Fiscal Policy

Reduce wasteful, unproductive and unnecessary federal government spending. As a percentage of GDP, federal government spending has dramatically increased over the last few years, thereby crowding out capital available for private investment. Regardless of whether federal government spending is financed by taxes or borrowing, it is the amount of federal government spending that is the issue as all federal government spending, regardless of how it is financed, takes funds out of the private sector and therefore harms all business activity, including exporting.

Regulatory Policy

U.S. exporters, like all U.S. business, are adversely affected by needless federal government regulation which only increased the cost of exporting and discourages risk taking. Reducing unnecessary regulation, and streamlining necessary regulations (such as Export Control Reform), will improve the competitiveness of U.S. exporters.

Tort Reform

The litigiousness of U.S. society is detrimental to U.S. exporters, particularly those who are manufacturers. Tort reform which limits the amount of punitive damages and relieves businesses from the costs of defending frivolous lawsuits would result a substantial improvement in the international competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing exporters.

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